objective, the Government constituted a ten-member Expert Committee to review the existing structure, functioning, performance, etc. of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and make suitable recommendations. On the basis of the recommendations of the Expert Committee, "The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2005", to amend the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22nd August, 2005. Further Action of the Bill has also been initiated taking into account the recommendations of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry on this Bill.

(d) Information on profit/loss account of village industries is not maintained Centrally. The details of the production, sales and employment in the village industries sector during the last 3 years are as under:

Year	Production (Rs. crore)	Sales (Rs. crore)	Employment (lakh persons)
2002-03	8126.30	9615.71	57.87
2003-04	9228.27	10988.17	62.58
2004-05	10458.89	12487.35	68.14

(e) and (f) The Central Government has recently approved the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI). This Scheme envisages the development of 100 clusters in the khadi, coir and village industries sector over five years beginning 2005-06. The guidelines of SFURTI are available on the website of the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries at http://ari.nic.in.

Schemes for poor people

3201. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes which rural poor people can avail themselves of without running after bank-loans;

(b) whether Government are going to introduce some of the schemes that would depend only on Government grants to encourage the entrepreneurs in respect of village industries;

(c) whether Government are going to take up a good portion of REGP Schemes in order to finance them out of the Government fund, but not out of bank loans in respect of village industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRADESH): (a)There is no scheme of the Central Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) to assist the rural poor in setting up village industries only through Government grants.

(b) and (c) No, sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Employment for rural poors

3202. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether rural industries are able to give employment to rural poor in a big way;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures planned to help this sector?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For several years, the Government has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme and the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, both credit-linked subsidy schemes, to assist establishment of rural industries for generation of employment.

Setting up of Nuclear Power Plant in Punjab

3203. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up any Nuclear Power Plant in Punjab to overcome the electricity shortage;

(b) whether Punjab State Electricity Board has also demanded a Nuclear Power Plant for the State; and

(c) if so, the status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) There have been requests received